



MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

mayor@northamptonma.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 8, 2020

Northampton Board of Health Issues Orders on Limits on Performance Venues and Outdoor Gatherings

NORTHAMPTON – Notwithstanding the provisions of Governor Baker’s COVID-19 Order 73, allowing transition to Step II of Phase III for low risk communities, the City of Northampton’s Public Health Director, Merridith O’Leary, issued an order maintaining limits on performance venues and outdoor gatherings, effective October 9, 2020, at 12:01 a.m.

“We’ve worked very hard to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Northampton and we need to keep doing what works,” said Mayor David Narkewicz. “I trust the judgment of our city’s public health and public safety experts and fully support their recommendations when it comes to regulating potentially risky activities.”

Even though declining case numbers qualify the City of Northampton to move into Step II of Phase III in the state’s reopening plan, the Northampton Board of Health has announced that the city will remain in Step I in the following ways:

- Indoor performance venues shall not be allowed
- Outdoor performance venues shall be allowed at 25% of capacity with a limit of 50 people
- Outdoor gatherings at event venues and/or in public settings shall be limited to 50 people

“While our current case numbers and percent positive rate have been stable and low in Northampton, I believe we must remain vigilant and cautious in how and when we reopen to these kinds of capacity levels and activities,” states Director O’Leary.

As of the October 7th weekly report by the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#), Northampton’s case rate was less than five cases for the last 14 days. Since the start of the pandemic, 22,365 tests have been conducted on Northampton residents. The percentage of

Northampton residents testing positive for the two-week period of September 23 - October 7th was .07 percent and the state's positive percentage for the same period was 1.04 percent.

Additional data about COVID-19 cases in Northampton, as well as weekly update, are posted at <http://northamptonma.gov/2104/COVID-19-Coronavirus>, which can also be found by clicking the red "COVID-19 Information" banner on the city's [homepage](#)

Northampton Board of Health is also maintaining the limit of no more than six people per table at restaurants. While the state has increased that number to 10, locally the number will remain at six.

For more information, please contact the Health Department at healthdept@northamptonma.gov or (413) 587-1214.